Sugar Season (October-September	Production of Sugar (Lakh M.Ts.)	Consumption of Sugar (Lakh M.Ts)
2002-2003	201.32	183.35
2003-2004	139.58	175.00
2004-2005	130.00	171.44

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Making Sugar Industry Free from Control

†1217. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that making the sugar industry free from the control of Government is in line with Government's predecided policy;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the availability of sugar in the country at present outstrips demand over many years; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons for not making sugar industry free from the control of Government as per the predecided policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Ministry has taken a decision that it is committed to complete decontrol of sugar sector. However, the complete decontrol must be on sustainable basis. Therefore, Government has been assessing the interests of the three paramount stakeholders *i.e.* the sugarcane growers, the sugar industry and the consumers. At present Government would continue with the 'Release Mechanism'.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.